

the

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NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, California 95077

(A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

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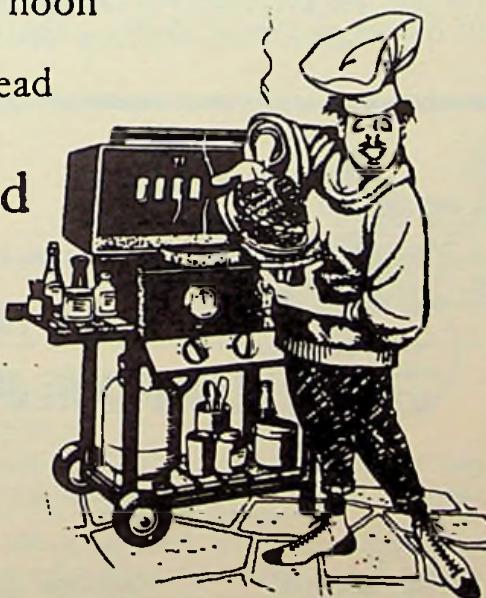
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— IN MEMORIUM —

Mariantonio Sanabria Violich

Mariantonio Sanabria Violich died quietly in her sleep in her Berkeley home on April 22, 1989. A native of Caracas, Venezuela, Mariantonio married Francis Violich of San Francisco, now Professor Emeritus of City Planning and Landscape Architecture at UC Berkeley, forty-two years ago. Over the years together they made many friends in the Santa Cruz - Watsonville area through spending weekends and summers here, first in their house in Rio Del Mar and currently in Los Barrancos de Aptos at La Selva Beach, for which Prof. Violich was the planner.

Since he had spent many childhood visits to the Yugoslav colony in Watsonville, they became members of YACO shortly after its founding. Mariantonio enjoyed the warmth and friendliness of its members and especially the Fourth of July picnics at Corralitos and the Sunday morning program of the Soldos. She genuinely took pleasure in sharing her husband's cultural and family ties in Dalmatia and was loved by all who knew her there. They visited that region together several times in connection with the studies of towns and villages that he carried out there.

Mariantonio is also survived by their five loving children, Antonio, Franco and Mario Violich and Carmen Violich-Goodin and Francesca Violich-Arango, as well as nine grandchildren. She also leaves four devoted brothers and sisters in Caracas, several of whom have enjoyed visits to the Santa Cruz - Watsonville area.

Masses were held in her memory on April 25 at the Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Campo Alegre, Caracas, where the couple was married in 1946 and on April 26 at Newman Hall, Parish of the Holy Spirit in Berkeley, with burial at Sunset View Cemetery nearby. Memorial donations have been sent to the new Fund for Flowering Native Shrubs in the Park, c/o Los Amigos de Codornices, MCRAE, 1505 Hawthorne Terrace, Berkeley, Calif. 94708.

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A TRIBUTE TO NICK

To have lived 88 years, and to have gathered as many good friends and the esteemed reputation that NICK DERPICH had, is probably the greatest tribute to any man's life. Nick had such an obvious love for life and like a pied piper, he sowed the seeds of joy and collected friends wherever he went. You couldn't pass him on the street and not notice him. It was impossible. He was a small man, but with his zest for living, he always sported the greatest smile, sparkling eyes and a cheery greeting.

Nick Derpich was our answer to George Jessel. He was our Toastmaster at all Yugoslav events, not just in Watsonville but wherever he visited. When Nick spoke, everyone listened because he spoke so sincerely about our culture. He encouraged so many people to be proud of the Yugoslav culture and its traditions and to keep them alive for generations to come. He and his lovely Katie were the most familiar faces at all of our YACO functions. They will be sadly missed, but in essence they will never really be gone. When a person or persons give so much of themselves to any cause, their very life is set in that cause and so they go on so long as the cause is continued.

YACO has been so fortunate to have had so many good people involved in its beginning and through the years. When we searched for a name for our organization, we wanted something to denote the strength and determination of our cause. As closely as I can recall, *jako* means strong and so we came as close as we could to that definition with our name. From the beginning, we had hoped to interest a wide variety

of members to YACO. We needed the older generation to show us the way and to remind us of the many valuable traditions of our culture, but we also needed the younger generation to carry on those traditions.

How fortunate we were to have attracted such valuable persons to our organization. The character of our members speaks for itself when you remember that YACO is 10 years strong and so many people were responsible for its very being. Nick was so proud of us and he encouraged us every step of the way to carry on and to remain proud always of our heritage. His pride was contagious and his joy was uncontrollable. Wherever Nick went, it was as though the sun followed him. I can imagine that if need be, he could become very angry, but he seemed to know how to reach people without anger. He commanded a natural respect from people simply because he radiated that same respect for others.

Nick and his Katie were inseparable and no two people could have been more complementary to one another than they were. They supported each other in every way. They were both very proud of their lives and of their lovely daughter Geri and her husband Chuck and their treasured granddaughter Lori. They had also raised their niece, Frannie Derpich Colendich since age 10, and she became a second loving daughter to them. How rich could anyone be who has a good life, a good family and the best of friends? Nick had all of these. He made the best of his life and he left all of us richer for having known him. Each of us will always carry a part of him within us because how can you forget the sunshine after seeing Nick's smile or the joy of life after hearing Nick's greeting?

— Patricia L. Solano

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Yugoslav Radio Hour

Remember to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on the dial.

ANN & ANDY SOLDI are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary, or for any special announcement.

Potpourri

BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

What a marvelous Stew Dinner John Biskup and his new wife Judy put on. And I especially liked the tomatoes on the side. It had a touch of class. Thanks to John, Judy and their crew Helen Bautovich won the 50/50 drawing. Among the other winners were M. Kohl, M. Scurich, Pat Solano, S. Hamblin, M. Burdick and Luce Selak. Rose Santich won the Afghan that Luce Selak crocheted and donated. Thanks, Luce, E. Colendich, S. Lucich, N. Nicholas, R. Polovina, M. Devery, J. Zadravac, N. Matulich Did I tell you that Ron now works at the brand new ITALIAN GOURMET DELI in "downtown Prunedale"? What a pretty little shopping center. Stop by and see him Happy Birthdays go out to the June celebrants: June Zupan, June Chichizola, Marilyn Georgevich, Milo OBradovich, Mary Farris, Helen Pyle, Ann Cernokus and Pat Solano. SRETAN RODENDAN Good Thoughts and Positive Energies go out to George Monkovich Need I say that we will all miss Nick Derpich. He was always one of YACO's truest loyal members — and friend I want to mention the Hamblins' granddaughter, Bree Ann. She was at the YCC barbecue. She is four years old. She got up and did the Kolo with strangers. When she came back to her seat she asked "What kind of ENGLISH are they speaking?" What a laugh we all got! I want to thank Ann Cernokus for the great decorations, Martin Santich/music, Zarko and Ron/set-up, and all the help on clean up Familiar Faces: A. Backovich, I. Strazicich, L. Strazicich, Jo Pehera, M/M Zalac, T. Beaudry, M/M Soldo, M/M Lawrence, V. Gugale, Hajdich, Stocking, Korach, Gizdich, Niemala, McNight, Bakich, Alaga, Cross, Miloslavich, Basich, Basor, Birimisa, Kesovia

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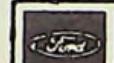
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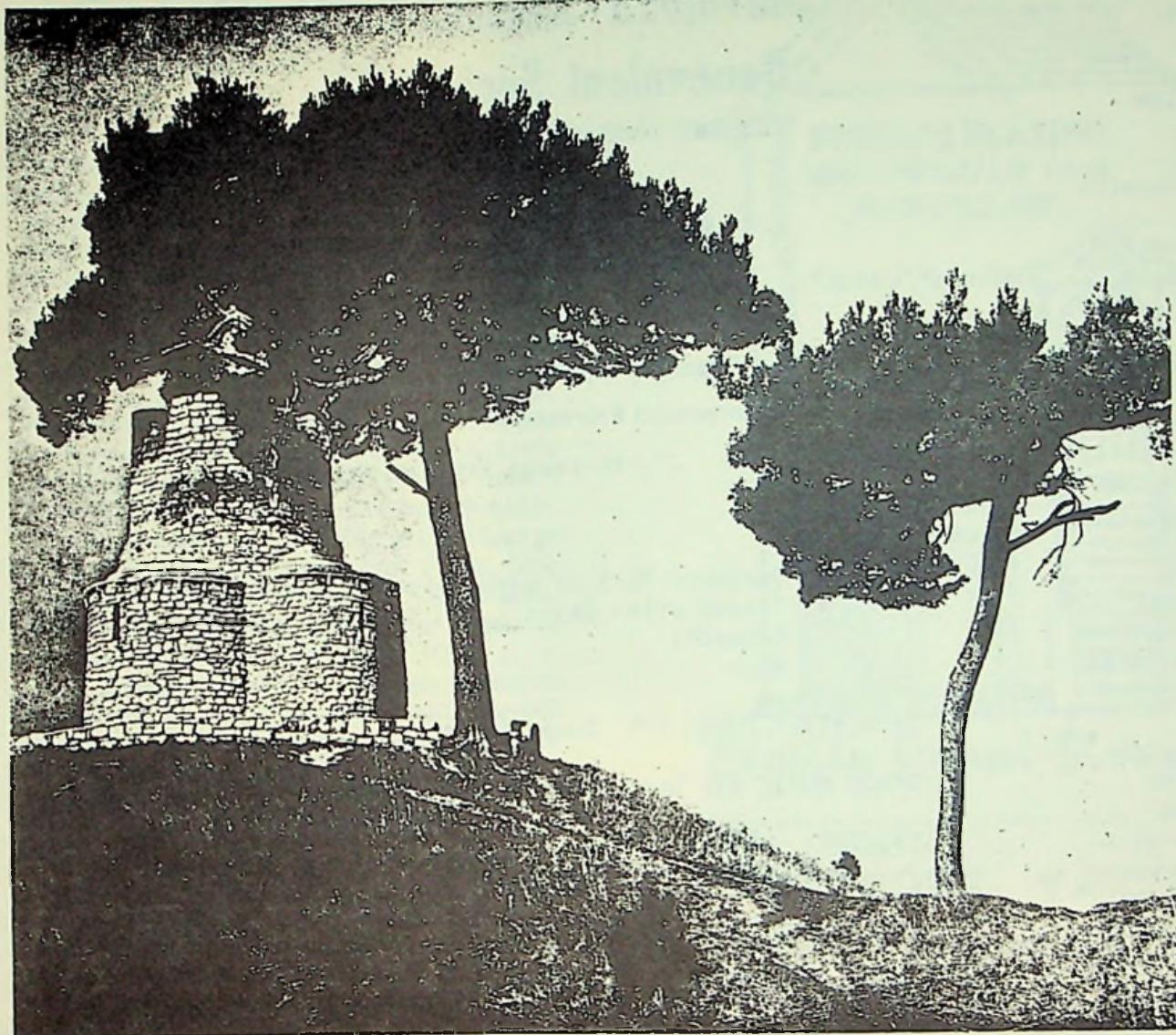
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EARLY MEDIEVAL ARCHITECTURE IN DALMATIA

Tomislav Marasović

Dalmatia possesses an enormous architectural heritage, but if we had to choose the one period where art in this region rivalled the greatest achievements in other parts of Europe, then we would most certainly opt for the early Middle Ages. Dalmatian art and architecture from this time is exemplified above all, by the numerous little pre-Romanesque churches in various states of preservation which are scattered the length of the Dalmatian — or even further — along the whole east Adriatic coast, on the islands and as far inland as the Zagora region.

These small churches and other architectural monuments, built between the Early Christian and Romanesque period from the 7th to the 11th century, are usually termed pre-Romanesque. Historically speaking, this art clearly belongs to

the early Middle Ages. The lower limit in this long period is marked by the destruction of the cities of Thessalonike, Epidaurus, and other towns, and by the appearance of the Slavs as a new ethnic element. Among the Slavs, the Croats formed their own state with national leaders in the 9th century. It began as a principality, later becoming a kingdom, whose golden age was the 11th century. South Dalmatia and Herzegovina saw the emergence of the autonomous regions of Zahumlje and Travunia which in the 12th century, together with the state of Duklja, were incorporated into the medieval state of Serbia.

The upper time limit of this period is counted as the end of the independent Croatian realm in the early 12th century and Dalmatia's inclusion in the Hungarian-Croatian Union under the rule of Hungarian kings, who granted Dalmatian towns autonomy.

The most notable remains of pre-Romanesque domestic architecture are to be found in Split, within the walls of the vast palace of the Roman emperor Diocletian (284–305 A. D.), where a town grew up in the early Middle Ages. The parts of dwelling houses that have been preserved here are rare even by European standards. There are only modest vestiges of early medieval fortifications, such as parts of the walls surrounding the town of Zadar, but even so they afford valuable material for studying this architectural form.

Early medieval churches in Dalmatia show three basic types of plan: centralised, rectangular, and a combination of the two.

The centralised building appears in many types and variations, from a simple circular or square structure to highly elaborate buildings whose interior is subdivided. An example of the simple shape is the trefoil, as seen in the church of St. Chrysogonus (*Sveti Krševan*) on the island of Krk or St. Nicholas (*Sveti Nikola*) at Nin — both dating from the late pre-Romanesque period.

An unusual variation of the quatrefoil type is the wonderfully preserved church of the Holy Cross (*Sveti Križ*) in Nin, where the architects skilfully combined a quatrefoil ground plan with a cruciform, triple-apsed sanctuary, thereby solving all constructional problems by erecting barrel vaults, semi-domes and the central dome.

St. Nicholas, a pre-Romanesque church at Nin.
PHOTOS: IVO PERVAN

Portrait of a dignitary — Museum of Croatian Archeological Monuments in Split.



The most common type of centralised plan in Dalmatia is the hexafoil church, of which there are eight examples, all grouped around Zadar and Split. Best preserved of these is Holy Trinity (*Sveta Trojica*) in Split, which was partly renovated not long ago.

The octofoil type is represented by the church in the village of Ošlje near the little town of Ston. It was built in a settlement mentioned in the 10th century by the Byzantine emperor and writer Constantine Porphyrogenitus. Here the eight conches radiate from the circular central area, formerly surmounted by a cupola. The building had a rec-

tangular porch, a narthex, with a bell-tower above it.

Zadar's church of St. Donatus (*Sveti Donat*) is the only example of a sectioned centralised building in Dalmatia. This type, which in other variants appears in the Byzantine architecture of the East, as well as in the Early Christian and pre-Romanesque architecture of the West, is characterised by a single central area surrounded by an exterior circular corridor on both ground and first-floor levels. Three radially arranged apses on the east side, also on two levels, of a kind found only in this church, make it an important link in the chain of European rotundas built between the late classical and medieval periods.

The rectangular building is also represented by a number of types and variations.

Most common are small single-nave churches whose ground plans range from a simple rectangle with a semicircular apse and unpartitioned walls to more sophisticated versions.

Early medieval churches in Dalmatian Zagora and at Nin — the territory of the old Croatian state — have a specific way of dividing the external walls, which are supported by enormous buttresses, counterforts. The best preserved example of this single-nave type of church is Holy Saviour (*Sveti Spas*) near the source of the Cetina, which has an excellently preserved bell-tower from the 9th century — when the church was also built — that is the oldest example of its kind in Dalmatian early medieval architecture.

Two-nave churches are extremely rare, being represented in Dalmatian pre-Romanesque architecture by the exceptionally well-preserved example of St. Peter (*Sveti Petar Stari*) in Zadar. In contrast to the church's simple exterior, the interior is divided by a large number of pillars supporting the cruciform vaulting. As an extension to the naves come two rectangular apses, surmounted by cupolas, which are part of the basic rectangular ground plan.

On the other hand, triple-nave churches are numerous, mainly appearing in the single- and triple-apse variants. As a rule, single-apse churches date from an earlier period, linking up with the Early Christian building tradition. A good example is the large Benedictine basilica of St. Stephen (*Sveti Stjepan*),

In the last century, the leader of a brigand band, a man by the name of Rajko, lived in the old mining settlement of Rajkovo, not far from the place where the river Rajkova disappears underground. Ostensibly he was a respectable inn-keeper, but in fact the main source of his wealth was highway robbery — attacking travellers and coaches on the Donji Milanovac—Majdanpek road. It was generally believed among the people that Rajko hid his ill-gotten gains in a nearby cave. This legend still excites people living in the region of eastern Serbia around the rivers Danube, Mlava and Timok, encouraging treasure-seekers to undertake the risky descent along the subterranean course of the river Rajkova to get to the cave.

The inhabitants of this region, and scientists too, were in no doubt as to the existence of a cave somewhere along the underground course of the Rajkova, but the steep cascades at the sinkhole and the very narrow exit where the river surfaces again made it very difficult and hazardous to follow this course.

Rajko's Cave (*Rajkova pećina*) is close to the east Serbian mining town of Majdanpek, on the fringe of the Carpathian Mountains, some 200 kilometres from Belgrade. It was first scientifically explored, though only partially, by the eminent geographer Jovan Cvijić (1894).

Before Cvijić, and after him, only the boldest "gold hunters" entered the cave; they kept the secret of how they managed to reach it, passing it down to younger members of their families.

The speleological explorations carried out by the author of this text together with a group of colleagues from the Institute for Forestry and the Woodworking Industry in Belgrade, were begun in June and ended in August 1974. As a result of these explorations and discoveries, part of Rajko's Cave was opened up for tourists on September 12, 1975.

...

Rajko's Cave, through which flows the subterranean river Rajkova, consists of two levels of channels or tunnels: the dry one with very elaborate cave decorations, and the river one. The length of the dry level is 1,174 metres and of the river level 1,130 metres, making a total length of 2,304 metres of tunnels in Rajko's Cave.

Though this cave is not the largest of its kind in Yugoslavia, nor the most lavishly ornamented by nature, its decoration is the most beautiful of all caves open to the public. Its distinction lies in the fact that the stalactites, pillars and wall decoration (drapery, organs) are of pure white crystal calcite, which glitters and reflects the light, like precious stones.

RAJKO'S CAVE

BY RADENKO LAZAREVIĆ



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A statuette of an unknown Roman emperor from the 2nd century A.D. found near Prilep

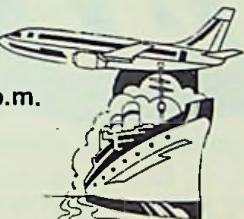


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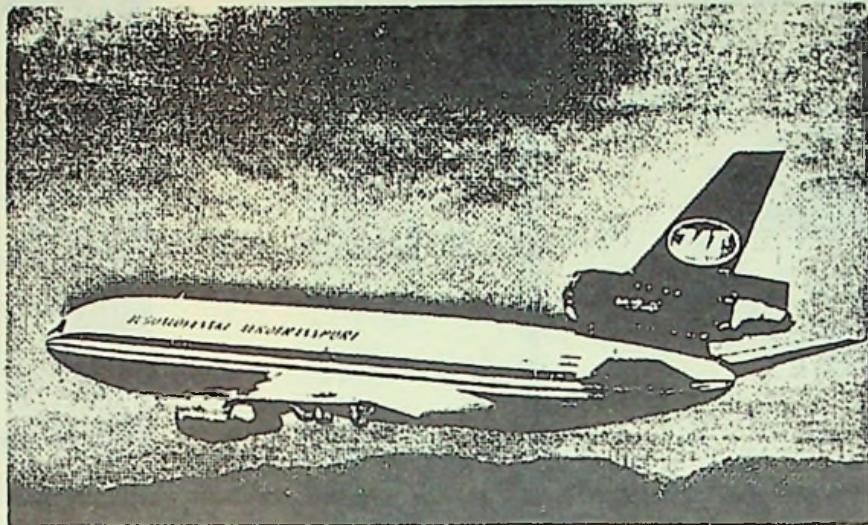
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JOIN US TODAY

YACO was established in 1979 as a non-profit club without political or religious ties for the sole purpose of bringing together Yugoslavs and other interested persons to make known and to preserve our Slavic heritage. We are proud that among our membership we have families and individuals whose roots represent each region of present-day Yugoslavia, as well as non-slavic members who support the club's goals.

A year-around series of programs and events has proven an enjoyable way for YACO to provide its focus on Slavic heritage. Such activities include picnics, lectures and slide presentations on Yugoslavia and its historic culture, plus potluck and sit-down dinners. We also publish a monthly newsletter, THE KALIFORNSKI, full of interesting articles, recipes, and news of our area's Yugoslav community.

Our meetings (the first Sunday of each month) may include a potluck, special dinner, films, dancing, and raffles, plus we hold an annual July barbecue.

Won't you accept our invitation to join us? We're sure you'll soon find YACO to be one of your favorite clubs.

Our dues are as follows:

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Interests: _____

Yugoslav Background: _____

Children under 18 included in Family Membership:

ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to share or see published in this newsletter, please let us know. We would appreciate your input in publishing this newsletter each month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us:

Dale Skillicorn and
Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn
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SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Trips by YACO members
2. Visitors from the Old Country
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs
6. Yugoslav recipes
7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Yugoslav stories for children
10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members

NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of each month so that we might get the paper out even earlier. It seems that our members out of Watsonville are not receiving their KALIFORNSKI early enough to plan on attending any of our programs. Members in Watsonville receive their copies at least two days after mailing so it seems to be a problem with a hold up at the post office. If I don't have the information in time, I will not be able to publish it until the next issue. REMEMBER to send me any information by the 10th of each month.

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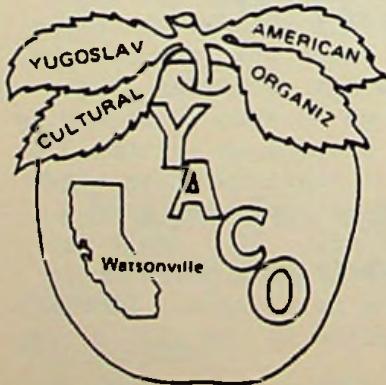
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Dale Skillicorn and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn

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CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.**
P.O. Box 226
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place
at 7:00 p.m. at
the V.F.W. Hall, 1960 Freedom Blvd., Freedom.*

June 4	ACADEMIC AWARDS plus John Basor with a film and a representative of the Seniors Network with a short presentation on help available through their programs.
July 2	YACO ANNUAL BARBEQUE <i>Corralitos Padres Park, 11 a.m. – ?</i>
August 6	Program to be announced
September 3	Program to be announced
October 1	Audio/Visual (Slides or movie)
November 5	ELECTIONS & Desserts
December 3	YACO CHRISTMAS PARTY 5 p.m. – ?



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